

**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF GREY FOREST, TEXAS
GREY FOREST COMMUNITY CENTER
18249 SHERWOOD TRAIL
HELOTES, TX 78023
October 26, 2021, 6:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Charles M. Thornton Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mayor Charles M. Thornton Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Geri Poss, Council Member Jennifer Nottingham, Council Member Sean Skaggs, and Council Member Kimberly Verity.

Absent: Council Member Susan Darst

Staff Present: City Secretary Miguel Cantu, Chief of Police Rene Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant Nichole Heinrich, SGT Scott Ristow, and CEO Grey Forest Utilities Jeff English.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS AND VISITORS

Mrs. Donna Gottwald wished to address the City Council regarding the Scharf case. Mrs. Gottwald expressed her support to move forward with the appeal and provided City Council with documentation on situations she has experienced as a neighbor to the event venue.

Ms. Mandy Waldrop wished to address the City Council. Ms. Waldrop expressed that she does not want the City Council to move forward with the appeal on the Scharf case. She provided City Council with a petition signed by residents in support of not proceeding with the appeal to the Scharf case.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS / REPORTS / MAYOR AND CITY EMPLOYEES

a) Mayor Announcements

1) September 2021 Check Detail

Mayor Thornton presented the financials for September 2021 Check Details. Additionally, he provided an update on recycling stating that recycling is now in higher demand. Beginning December 2021, recycling will be reinstated with no additional cost to the resident and staying within the City's 2021-2022 budget. Residents who have paid for the upcoming year will be reimbursed at a prorated rate.

b) Council/Staff Announcements: None

c) Committee Announcements/Reports: None

d) Grey Forest Community Board Update: Mayor Thornton called on Ms. Madeline McCloskey. Ms. McCloskey reported that the Haunted Hayride is up to nineteen (19) stops with twenty (20) kids and scheduled for Saturday, October 30th. Also, they will be planting more trees in November including a Christmas tree.

e) Senator Frank L. Madla Natural Area Update: Council Member Nottingham reported they are continuing to rehab the open field that includes a prescribed burn. The prescribed burn will take place on November 11th or 12th of 2021 and will include the planting of switch grass after the burn. Council Member Nottingham also reported that they are having a lot of trouble putting their annual auction online.

f) Board of Adjustment Update: None

g) Police Department Monthly Report: Mayor Thornton called on Chief Rodriguez. Chief Rodriguez reviewed the Police Department Monthly Report for September 2021. He also reported the next bike rodeo is scheduled for Labor Day Weekend 2022 and National Night Out will be October 4, 2022. Chief Rodriguez further explained that the Police Department has continued to work on the Emergency Operations Plan with initial inspections of flood gates, Emergency Response Mode, and attaining emergency supplies for the clubhouse. Mayor Thornton added that the generator would probably arrive February 2022.

h) Public Works Monthly Report: Mayor Thornton presented the Public Works Quarterly Report provided by Public Works Supervisor Jay Shipley. Mayor Thornton also provided an update on the storage container informing City Council that the electric and insulation have been installed. He further explained that the front area of the container would be Public Works' office area, the center for City Hall storage after fireproof filing cabinets are purchased, and the back portion will be used for Police Department storage.

i) Fire Department Monthly Report: Mayor Thornton called on ESD #8 Facilities Manager Mr. Don Reddout who provided a report for City Council's review.

j) Grey Forest Utilities Update: Mayor Thornton called on CEO of Grey Forest Utilities Jeff English. Mr. English stated the Grey Forest Utilities is having a good year with approximately 500 new customers. He added that a generator will be leased for the winter months to operate the water wells in case of another freeze and can be considered for purchase.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

a) None

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MAY BE CONSIDERED AT ANY TIME DURING THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of Minutes: September 28, 2021 Regular Meeting

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER VERITY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2021. COUNCIL MEMBER NOTTINGHAM SECONDED THE MOTION. COUNCIL VOTED 4-0.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

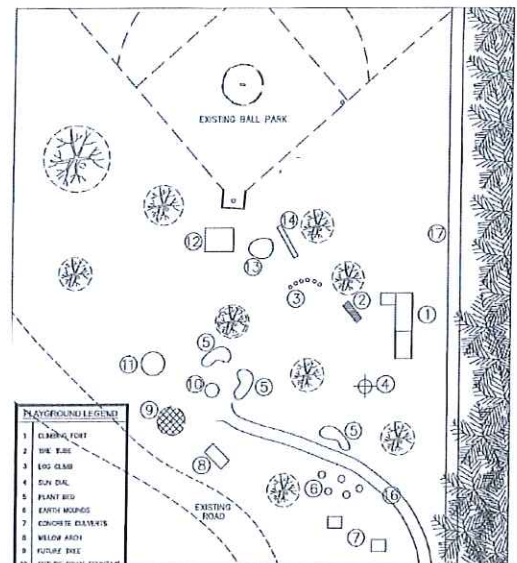
a) Discuss and take possible action on approving Playground Phase 1 at the Grey Forest Community Center (18249 Sherwood Trail).

*For reference only, a snip of the Playground Phase 1 at the Grey Forest Community Center has been provided.

Ms. Madeline McCloskey presented the Playground Phase 1 at the City of Grey Forest Community Center. She stated that the playground would be built at a minimal cost to the City of Grey Forest. Playground Legend: 1) Climbing Fort, 2) Tire Tube, 3) Log Climb, 4) Sun Dial, 5) Plant Bed, 6) Earth Mounds, 7) Concrete Culverts, 8) Willow Arch, 9) Future Tree, 10) Future Drink Fountain, 11) Future Tire Swing, 12) Future Swing Set, 13) Play Mound, 14) Log Balance, 15) Info Signage, 16) Walking Path, 17) Bike Path.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER NOTTINGHAM TO APPROVE PLAYGROUND

PHASE 1 AT THE GREY FOREST COMMUNITY CENTER (18249 SHERWOOD TRAIL).



COUNCIL MEMBER VERITY SECONDED THE MOTION. COUNCIL VOTED 4-0.

- b) Discuss and take possible action on Resolution No. 2021-14R, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Grey Forest, Texas establishing a paid quarantine leave policy for City of Grey Forest non-emergency employees; providing a severability clause and establishing an effective date.**

City Secretary Miguel Cantu stated as requested by Council Member Nottingham, a resolution and a paid quarantine leave policy for City of Grey Forest non-emergency employees was provided for City Council's consideration. The policy is comparable to Resolution 2021-12R, that addressed House Bill 2073 and was signed by the governor on June 15, 2021. It is effective now. The bill required a city to adopt a paid quarantine leave policy for fire fighters, peace officers, detention officers, and emergency medical technicians (as applicable for each city) who are employed by, appointed by, or elected to one of those positions. The policy is a stand-alone mandate that is unrelated to workers' compensation benefits.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM POSS TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-14R, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREY FOREST, TEXAS ESTABLISHING A PAID QUARANTINE LEAVE POLICY FOR CITY OF GREY FOREST NON-EMERGENCY EMPLOYEES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. COUNCIL MEMBER NOTTINGHAM SECONDED THE MOTION. COUNCIL VOTED 4-0.

- c) Discuss and take possible action on Resolution No. 2021-15R, a resolution of the City of Grey Forest, Texas, designating the Helotes Echo as the primary official newspaper for the City of Grey Forest, Texas; and providing for an effective date.**

Mr. Cantu reported that as required in Texas Local Government Code Section 52.004 the City must designate a newspaper: (a) As soon as practicable after the beginning of each municipal year, the governing body of the municipality shall contract, as determined by ordinance or resolution, with a public newspaper of the municipality to be the municipality's official newspaper until another newspaper is selected. (b) The governing body shall publish in the municipality's official newspaper each ordinance, notice, or other matter required by law or ordinance to be published. Council Member Verity asked if the newspaper was being published and distributed. Mr. Cantu reported that he provided an email for the City Council's review that Mr. James Lee stated The Helotes Echo does meet the criteria as a legal newspaper. Mr. Cantu added that the Highlights newspaper only printed once a month, except in January, which would not be able to publish Board of Adjustment notifications in a timely manner.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SKAGGS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-15R, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GREY FOREST, TEXAS, DESIGNATING THE HELOTES ECHO AS THE PRIMARY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE CITY OF GREY FOREST, TEXAS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. COUNCIL MEMBER NOTTINGHAM SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTED 4-0.

- d) Discuss and take possible action on Resolution No. 2021-16R, a resolution of the City of Grey Forest, Texas authorizing the filing of a grant application with the Alamo Area Council of Government (AACOG) for a Regional Solid Waste Grants Program Grant; authorizing the Mayor to act on behalf of the City of Grey Forest in all matters related to the application; and pledging that if a grant is received the City of Grey Forest will comply with the grant requirements of the Alamo Area Council of Governments, the Texas Commission On Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the State of Texas.**

Mr. Cantu reported the City of Grey Forest would be applying for the Source Reduction and

Recycling to purchase a chipper in the amount of \$54,276.00 through the Alamo Area Council of Governments. As a cash match the city will contribute \$2,500, which will be used first before the amount that is awarded. Council Member Nottingham asked when the application was due. Mr. Cantu reported the grant application was due on October 28, 2021 and this is a reimbursable grant.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM POSS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-16R, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GREY FOREST, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE ALAMO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (AACOG) FOR A REGIONAL SOLID WASTE GRANTS PROGRAM GRANT; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF GREY FOREST IN ALL MATTERS RELATE TO THE APPLICATION; AND PLEDGING THAT IF A GRANT IS RECEIVED THE CITY OF GREY FOREST WILL COMPLY WITH THE GRANT REQUIREMENTS OF THE ALAMO AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) AND THE STATE OF TEXAS. COUNCIL MEMBER NOTTINGHAM SECONDED THE MOTION. COUNCIL VOTED 4-0.

e) Discuss and take possible action on cancelling November/December City Council Meetings.

Mayor Thornton stated every year City Council reviews cancelling the November/December meeting. Council Member Nottingham did not see a reason to cancel the meetings this far in advance.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

f) Discuss the following pending City Council topics: Roadway Easement/Right of Way, Website, Nuisance Ordinance, Road Repair, and Mailbox area cover design.

Council Member Verity requested the continuance of a running list of items for discussion and that the Roadway Easement/Right of Way discussion to be added to the list for future discussion. Regarding the website, Mayor Thornton reported that the City signed an agreement with Revize to do our website which will have emergency alerts that the residents will be able to sign up for. The new website should launch in March or April at the latest. Mayor Thornton also discussed the mailbox cover stating that materials are very expensive right now, but are coming down in price. Mayor Thornton asked if residents had some cedar posts that they would be willing to donate. If they are already cut down, these could be used as posts for the metal roof. Mayor addressed the road repair and mentioned that Public Works Director C.E. "Bubba" Rutledge is currently working on some of the smaller issues, but there are larger issues that need to be resolved. Mayor Thornton discussed the Nuisance Ordinance and asked Mr. Cantu to check and see if the Ordinance was approved. Mayor Thornton also mentioned that GFU will be out the week of November 15, 2021, to start digging the hole for the septic system at City Hall. Mr. Jay Shipley will be installing the aerobic system. Council person Nottingham wished to express her thanks to Jay Shipley, Christian Holt, and Emilio Rodriguez for coming in early and clearing the bridges as soon as the water receded during the last storm. Council person Nottingham also thanked Jay Shipley for returning to work after he had already gone home for the day to assist with removing a tree from Scenic Loop.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) None

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) None

XI. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED

a) None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM POSS TO ADJOURN AT 7:34 P.M. COUNCIL MEMBER NOTTINGHAM SECONDED THE MOTION. COUNCIL VOTED 4-0.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021.

APPROVED:




Charles Mitchell Thornton, Jr.
Mayor

ATTEST:



Nichole Heinrich
Administrative Assistant





Miguel Cantu, TRMC
City Secretary